

# ANTI COMPLACENCY COURSE

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

based on the 35 instructions in 1 Thessalonians 4 & 5

## NOTES FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDIES

Aim: 'to learn how to live in order  
to please God more and more'

## STUDY PLAN

*sample below for preview*

**SESSION 1 - complacency free**

*for the rest of the course contact us*

**SESSION 2 - holiness friendly**

**SESSION 3 - love focussed**

**SESSION 4 - hope minded**

**SESSION 5 - time conscious**

**SESSION 6 - leaders friendly**

**SESSION 7 - socially skilled**

**SESSION 8 - joy seeker**

**SESSION 9 - prayer friendly**

**SESSION 10 - cynicism free**

## SESSION 1 - complacency free

the last instruction in chap. 5 verse 27 is

**'I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers'**, so would be good to read the whole letter at this point, just in case you have never read it in its entirety or never in one sitting

### Summary

- **Chapter 1** is about the writers and the Christians in Thessalonica of ancient Greece coming into first contact.

(who are the writers? 1. \_\_\_\_\_,  
2. \_\_\_\_\_,  
3. \_\_\_\_\_)

(where in the book of Acts does it give complementary details, is it 1. Acts 2 ? 2. Acts 10 ? 3. Acts 17 ?)

- **chapter 2.** what is it about

- the reasons for Timothy's visit back to Thessalonica and his good report back ?
- the way the writers worked among them and their sudden separation ?

- **chapter 3.** what is it about

- the reasons for Timothy's visit back to Thessalonica and his good report back?
- the way the writers worked among them and their sudden separation?

- **Question:** how do you think the writers felt about these Christians after reading up to this point?

1. *annoyed?*

2. *frustrated?*

3. *well pleased?*

- **final chapters, 4 & 5** are a catalogue of **35 instructions** (some with few comments) (see list above) coming not from frustration but satisfaction inviting further progress

**re Read** 1 Thessalonians 4 verses 1 and 2

- these verses could be called 'bridge / transition' verses. **Why?**
- **does it mean just to 'brothers'?** Were there no 'sisters' in the church in Thessalonica? see Acts 17:4 and 1 Thes.1:1
- would you agree with commentators who suggest that it is a generic word meaning both genders?

- the instruction here is, end of v.1, **'Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more'**
- **Which words** show that the writers really want them to do this?
- what is it they plead with them to do more & more?
  1. to pray
  2. to please God
  3. to know

### TO PLEASE GOD

- this was the challenge, and it is still the challenge today; it is ultimately to please God, to keep pleasing Him and to do this more and more
- help from what has been said in these verses:
  - **'we instructed you':**
    - what is the meaning of **to instruct** here?
      - a. to teach a subject?
      - b. to tell others what and/or how to do things?
      - c. to inform someone of facts?
      - d. to authorise somebody to act?

- Would you say that to be 'instructed how to live in order to please God' for Christians today is

**not necessary?          needed?          an option?**

(see Acts 1:2 - 1 Thes.4:8 - 2 Thes.3:14 - 1 Tim.5:7 - 2 Tim.4:2)

- **'as in fact you are living':** which implications from this remark are correct in the list below?

- Pleasing to God is automatic
- Instructions need to be followed
- Only perfection can please God
- Confirms sense of satisfaction, with men and God
- All Christians are pleasing to God; see 1 Cor.3:1, Heb.5:11-14
- Pleasing God is for the whole life

- **'to do this (pleasing God) more and more':**

the words below are possible conclusions drawn from this expression. Can you make up 2 conclusions that would include two of these words in each?

**journey   satisfaction   not a destination   no complacency**

1.

2.

**. 'you know':**

- some instructions they already knew, it was only a reminder; we might have to be reminded too (see 1 Pet.1/12-16)!!
- Can you think of recent example(s) when you were reminded about something to do? What was the result(s)?

**. 'by the authority of the Lord Jesus':**

- Is it God's idea for instructions to be given to Christians?
- Does God use some Christians to instruct other Christians?  
See Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Tim.1:1-2
- Is it with words only? See 1 Tim.4:11-12, 1 Pet.5:2-4

**to sum up: counting on the Help of the Holy Spirit to ...**

- to show humility concerning being instructed
- to put in practice instructions
- be aware of being pleasing to God
- willing & praying to please Him more and more
- being open to God wanting us to instruct others